

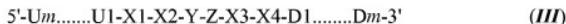
Amendments to the Claims:

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) An immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound comprising a sequence of formula (III):



wherein:

Y is a non-natural pyrimidine nucleoside;

Z is guanosine, 2'-deoxy-guanosine or a non-natural purine nucleoside;

each X independently is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety;

wherein Um-U1 represents an upstream potentiation domain, where each U independently is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety;

wherein D1-Dm represents a downstream potentiation domain , where each D independently is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety; and m, at each occurrence, represents a number from 0 to 30; and

wherein the immunostimulatory moiety is selected from the group consisting of C3-alkyl linker, 2-aminobutyl-1,3-propanediol linker, β -L-deoxynucleoside, amino linker, nucleoside methylphosphonate, 2'-O-methyl-ribonucleoside, 1',2'-dideoxyribose, C3-linker, Spacer 18, 3'-deoxynucleoside, 2'-O-propargyl-ribonucleoside, Spacer 9 and 2'-5' linkage; and

wherein at least one X, U, or D is an immunostimulatory moiety.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound of claim 12, wherein:

An immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound comprising a sequence of formula (III):

5'-Um.....U1-X1-X2-Y-Z-X3-X4-D1.....Dm-3' (III)

wherein:

Y is a non-natural pyrimidine nucleoside;

Z is guanosine, 2'-deoxy-guanosine or a non-natural purine nucleoside;

X1 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of C3-alkyl linker, 2-aminobutyl-1,3-propanediol linker, and β-L-deoxynucleoside;

X2 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety that is an amino linker;

X3 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety that is a nucleoside methylphosphonate;

X4 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or ~~an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of~~ a nucleoside methylphosphonate and 2'-O-methyl-ribonucleoside;

U1 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose, C3-linker, and 2'-O-methyl-ribonucleoside;

U2 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose, C3-linker, Spacer 18, 3'-deoxynucleoside, nucleoside methylphosphonate, β-L-deoxynucleoside, and 2'-O-propargyl-ribonucleoside;

U3 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose, C3-linker, Spacer 9, Spacer 18, nucleoside methylphosphonate, and 2'-5' linkage;

D1 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose and nucleoside methylphosphonate;

D2 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose, C3-linker, Spacer 9, Spacer 18, 2-aminobutyl-1,3-propanediol linker, nucleoside methylphosphonate, and β -L-deoxynucleoside; and

D3 is a naturally occurring nucleoside or an immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 3'-deoxynucleoside, 2'-O-propargylribonucleoside; and 2'-5' linkage.

15. (Withdrawn) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound of claim 12, wherein U2 and U3 are both the same immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose, C3-linker, or β -L-deoxynucleoside.
16. (Withdrawn) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound of claim 12, wherein U3 and U4 are both the same immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of nucleoside methylphosphonate and 2'-O-methoxyethylribonucleoside.
17. (Withdrawn) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound of claim 12, wherein U5 and U6 are both the same immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose and C3-linker.
18. (Withdrawn) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound of claim 12, wherein X1 and U3 are both 1',2'-dideoxyribose.
19. (Withdrawn) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound of claim 12, wherein D2 and D3 are both the same immunostimulatory moiety selected from the group consisting of 1',2'-dideoxyribose and β -L-deoxynucleoside.

20-38. (Cancelled)